



NEWS RELEASE

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Hoosier National Forest takes measures to protect birds

Bedford, Ind. —The U.S. Forest Service recently implemented measures to prevent birds from colliding with glass windows on their Bedford office building. According to the American Bird Conservancy, glass collisions are a big problem for birds, as up to a billion die as a result of them in the United States each year. You may be wondering why this is so prevalent. Think of it this way, most glass surfaces are reflective, at least at certain times of the day. If a glass window is reflecting the surrounding landscape of grass, trees or sky, a bird sees it as such and attempts to fly into the natural looking space. What results is generally a head on collision, most often resulting in death or severe injury to the bird.

With birds migrating north to their breeding grounds throughout the spring, there is an increased risk of birds striking glass. Forest Service staff have documented this occurrence and are taking steps to mitigate it. After researching various prevention methods, the Green Team (a group of staff tasked with implementing sustainability measures) decided that bird tape would be the best long term solution. The American Bird Conservancy has a webpage devoted to this issue, including data on products they have tested, as well as a variety of inexpensive do it yourself methods.

Bird tape is applied to the outside of the window, and placed either vertically or horizontally. Research has shown that birds tend to not attempt to fly through open spaces that are less than 4 inches between vertical strips, and no more than 2 inches between horizontal strips.

Other prevention methods include screens, decals, strings, cords, paint, netting, and shutters. In addition, placement of bird feeders can also be a factor and should be evaluated on a case by case basis.

While no method is 100% effective, we can all take action to reduce the number of birds dying as a result of flying into the windows of our homes and businesses.





Bird tape was recently applied to the Hoosier National Forest office windows in Bedford to prevent bird collisions.



United States Department of Agriculture

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 30 percent of the nation's surface drinking water to cities and rural communities and approximately 66 million Americans rely on drinking water that originated from the National Forest System. The agency also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.)

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